

Docket 04-233

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation AND an attempt to influence the outcome of the presidential election without providing equal time for a response or reaction.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

For the FCC to allow Sinclair to proceed with this anti-Kerry propaganda is an act of dishonor. CBS gets fined for a brief display of a breast, yet Sinclair can air lies and distortions, and the FCC gives the stamp of approval. Shame.

When it is time to renew the licenses of Sinclair Broadcasting Group, I would hope you shut them down until they learn to use the public airwaves in the public interest.